

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants have amended claim 61 to recite that the recombinant chromosome comprises an exogenous Group I intron encoded endonuclease site, wherein the site is within an integrated nucleic acid sequence from a vector. The amendment is supported throughout the specification, for example, on page 1, lines 17-24, and page 6, lines 8-20. No new matter enters through this amendment.

Applicants thank Examiner Kaushal for the courtesy of the Interview of October 29, 2003, in which the rejection of claims 61, 67, and 64-79 was discussed. Applicants also thank Examiner Kaushal for the courtesy of the telephonic discussion of December 8, 2003, in which the above amendment was discussed and was indicated as obviating the rejection of claims 61, 67, and 64-79.

Claims 61, 67, and 64-79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohashi et al. The Examiner contends that the cells of Ohashi et al. inherently anticipate applicants' claims reciting an I-PpoI site.

Applicants traverse the rejection. Applicants' claimed recombinant chromosome is formed through the insertion of an exogenous endonuclease site that was not previously present in the chromosome. To clarify this point, applicants have amended claim 61 to recite that the recombinant chromosome comprises an exogenous Group I intron encoded endonuclease site, wherein the site is within an integrated nucleic acid sequence from a vector. Ohashi et al. does

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

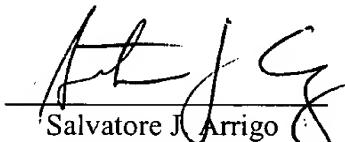
not disclose such a recombinant chromosome. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner should disagree, he is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER L.L.P.

By: 

Salvatore J. Arrigo
Reg. No. 46,063
Tel: (202) 408-4000
Fax: (202) 408-4400
Email: arrigos@finnegan.com

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FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com